



[Permanent Address:](#)

698 Conservation Way

Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Well retirees, we did it again. This time it was at the National Conservation Training Center at Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Over 150 Fish and Wildlife Service retirees and spouses as well as current Service employees and guests, gathered on a late April Friday evening to renew old friendships and meet people whose name was only a mention during their working days. The weather cooperated to make a beautiful evening for the icebreaker social and barbeque on the outside deck of the Center's Commons area. Many members of the Service Directorate attended the event including Director Steve Williams. It was, according to one source, "A genuinely fun time. Service retirees are just a fun group to be around."

Saturday seminars on changing and new benefits affecting Government retirees, a retiree business session with the presentation of the new Retirees Association, a presentation on a new Fishery program support effort by Peter Stine who introduced the new *Fisheries Forever* initiative, and, the SageWolves Team presented an *Upward to Leadership* project involving retiree mentoring of current Service employees. There was a special showing of the movie *Arctic Dance*, a love story biography about Olaus and Mardy Murie, early pioneer scientists of the Biological Survey. Also on the afternoon movie bill was a showing of the film *Winged Migration*, an incredible wildlife production using mini-cams on migrating waterfowl. Tours of the archives and plenty of time for visiting filled the afternoon.

The evening featured a banquet with Deputy Director Marshall Jones addressed the gathering and Karen Hollingsworth was a winner with her *Lets Go Wild*, a video presentation with music of her and her late husband John's 18 years of photographing on National Wildlife Refuges. The *Friends of NCTC* provided the dinner wine.

And to think this all started 5 years ago when 13 retirees gathered at the NCTC for a reunion weekend. It wasn't until 2002 at the Spearfish, ND, reunion that a breakout year of 200 retirees gathered followed in 2003 at Pelican Island, FL when nearly 200 retirees gathered.

In an earlier evening ceremony, the Service's Heritage Committee presented its 2004 Heritage Award to the Booth Society, Inc. for its continuing work for the past 20 years helping to preserve fisheries history at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery, Spearfish, SD.

Also, Edgar C. Fearnow presented two original patents awarded to his grandfather, former Chief of Distribution for the Bureau of Fisheries, to the fisheries archives at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery, Spearfish, SD. The patents were for "Containers for Transporting and Storing Live Fish, Fish Fry, and Fish Eggs, November 14, 1922." The containers became known as Fearnow pails, replacing milk cans as the favored shipping container and were widely used in fish culture around the country. The second original patent, a fishway patent of January 13, 1925, was for a device to move fish around dams. Mr. Fearnow was accompanied by his sisters Carol Purvis and Janice Didawick.

Retirees Group Now Official

On another significant note, the heretofore loosely formed group of Fish and Wildlife Service Retirees is now an official tax-exempt, non-profit Association with a permanent address at the National Conservation Training Center. The necessary business charter was approved by West Virginia and the application to the IRS met statute requirement of 501(c)3. The official name of the organization is *The Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Service Employees* also to be known as the FWS Retirees Association.

Let me quote the purpose of our new Association,

The "Purposes of the Association are: To recognize the rich history of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the many contributions of its present and past employees, to foster the preservation and use of the historical treasures, documents, objects and information of the Service's unique history and values in natural resource conservation, and by involving present and past employees in the history and heritage of the Fish and Wildlife Service."

General membership is accorded to any person employed by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service that has retired and upon furnishing a mailing address to the Association, will receive mailings of publications and other limited information of interest about retiree activities and events and current Service activities and accomplishments. Immediate family members of retirees also meet this definition. To keep the Association solvent, there will be dues paying membership categories that will include benefits from joining.

As of early May, the general Association membership is approaching 2000 mailing addresses. Of this total, over 800 members also have e-mail capability. It is important for you to let us know when you change addresses. With the cost of postage plus that of copying and envelope costs, it doesn't take much to waste \$\$ the Association doesn't have much of when the undeliverable mail comes zinging back. Use Denny's toll free number 1-877-831-5591 to advise of changes.

And in regard to e-mail addresses, because of your new ISP changes or installation of spam blocking programs, important news messages aren't getting to you unless you let us know of your changes or configure your e-mail program to accept batch messages from the FWS listserver.

If you have an e-mail address and want to be included in the e-mail database, please send a note to Jerry Grover (address below) and if you have e-mail and have not received a Fish and Wildlife Service Retiree message in the past several months, this means we don't have your current address. Send a note to Jerry Grover to update your address. (see address below)

At a Sunday afternoon strategy session, an interim nine member Board of Directors was agreed on and interim officers elected. **Jerry Grover** will fill the Interim Board Chairman's office with **Denny Holland** named as the Secretary / Treasurer and **Jerry French** as the Vice Chairman. The other interim Board members and alternates (with*) are :

Contact a Board Member

Jerry Grover; Groverjerry.judy@att.net / 503-684-1809
Denny Holland; Denny_Holland@fws.gov / 1-877-831-5591
Jerry French; frenchj@bacavalley.com / 505-445-3835
Tom Duncan; toduck09@ioccc.com / 870-246-7486
John Green; John_Green@fws.gov / 303-423-3728
Tom McAndrews; Tmcandrews@msn.com / 603-882-1070
Wendell Ogden; WOgden8991@aol.com / 304-876-3097
Jo Quinter; quinter489@aol.com / 703-356-1554
Joe Yovino; Patentfile@aol.com / 520-537-9168
*Don Fortenbery; fort@lewistown.net / 406-538-5808
*Dorthe Norton; dono@pclink.com / 651-450-6871
*Judy Pulliam; Judy_Pulliam@fws.gov / 706-268-3970
*John Ramsour; jvramsour@terraworld.net / 785-448-6180

The immediate task of the Board is to develop a set of Bylaws that will guide Association business to be made available for review and approval by the Association's general membership and to identify a slate of candidates to run for election as permanent Board members. The plan is complete the election process and to have a permanent Board of Directors elected for installation by the next retirees reunion in 2005. Your help, your ideas are solicited. Don't hesitate to contact a Board member

Next Reunion – Portland, Oregon

Get ready for another big retirees' reunion. Plans are already underway for the next reunion to be in Portland, Oregon, September 15-18, 2005. The 3-day activities will center around the Lewis and Clark *Corps of Discovery*, commemorating the 200th anniversary of their journey to the Pacific coast. A headquarters hotel on the Columbia River has been secured, and plans are to tour the Spring Creek NFH during salmon migration and spawning operations and to visit the Ridgefield NWR and the newly reconstructed Cathlapotle Plankhouse, a replica of the Indian longhouse that was once at that site.

The 2006 Retirees Reunion ?

The Albuquerque area was recommended by attendees at the retirees' reunion as the 2006 reunion site. It would be another Fall gathering and would take advantage of the nearby Bosque del Apache NWR and the famous balloon festival.

Other News

Retired Law Enforcement agents held their annual '**Get Together**' during the first week of April, also at the NCTC. Over 40 agents and spouses from around the country attended this event. The '**Get Together**' coincided with an ongoing training course for current Service Special Agents allowing the retirees to co-mingle with these young(er) folks. During the reunion, Chief of Law Enforcement Kevin Adams made presentation to those present of their, "Retired Agent Badge and Credentials." a very special occasion. It only took a 10-year battle to win this symbol of respect and service for their careers in Law Enforcement in the World's premier wildlife management and conservation agency.

Sandy Wilbur is spreading the word about his new book just published: "*Condor Tales: What I Learned in Twelve Years with the Big Birds.*" It's a "tell all" book, mentioning such infamous names as Martinson, Meyer, Marshall, Lehenbauer, Sweeney, etc. It's a little bit about birds, too. Details are on his website:

<http://condortales.htm>

John Oberhue has just completed the story of his life in the book *Pour Salt on its Tail*. It begins with his birth in India as the son of a Lutheran missionary, growing up in southern Illinois and with substantial accounts of his career with the Service, focusing on wildlife management practices over the last half of the 20th century.

Passing of Colleagues

I've just received word about the death of **Frank Dunn** on March 3. Frank served as a maintenance man at Tishomingo NWR, Inks Dam NFH, Bosque del Apache NWR, Izembek

NWR, and Cibola NWR. He retired from the Service about 1994.

I had the pleasure of working with Frank at Bosque del Apache in the mid 1980s. He could have been the poster child for the typical maintenance worker. Frank could farm, drive a truck, weld, mechanic, operate a bull dozer, as well as being a firefighter and a law enforcement officer. No matter the job, he would tackle it with a sense of getting it done and with a great sense of humor. Notes of condolence may be sent to:

Dunn Family
Bosque del Apache NWR
P.O. Box 1246
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Thanks to Jerry French for passing on this information

GRANT HORTIN JENSEN passed away peacefully on March 14, 2004, at the age of ninety. His wife, Elna, had preceded him in death six years earlier in 1998. Their posterity to date includes one daughter (Maureen) and one son (Grant) and six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

He began his career during his last year at Utah State University doing research on the newly constructed Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge. He was soon assigned to a position in Washington, D.C., with the Research Division of the Bureau of Biological Survey. He was called to active duty with the U.S. military at Fort Meyer, Arlington, Virginia, in August of 1941 but after the war was sent back to Brigham City, Utah. There he continued, in association with Cecil S. Williams, an expanded avian botulism research study at the Bear River Bird Refuge. Hortin and Cec Williams developed an air-thrust boat capable of traveling the shallow water and mud flats at speeds of up to thirty miles per hour. He went on to build up to a dozen of these air boats over the ensuing years in his garage for Ducks Unlimited, the state fish and game departments of Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, and California, and also the federal government. Sensing the possible need for aircraft in waterfowl management, Hortin took flying lessons at the Logan, Utah, airport, and after a time received his private pilot's license. As work modified, Hortin transferred to Waterfowl Management investigations and as a result, he became a Flyway Biologist. At the time of his retirement, Hortin was a pilot rated multi-engine land and sea, instrument with some 15,000 flying hours with the preponderance of these hours being at 100-200 feet above the terrain observing and identifying ducks and geese. It was Hortin's good fortune to become a flyway biologist, and this developed into his main vocation for approximately thirty-five years. Hortin's retirement years spanned nearly thirty years.

Thanks to Duane Norman

Henry Joyner a long-time engineer in the Atlanta Region Office passed away on April 5, 2004. He retired in the mid-90's and continued to live in the Atlanta area

Joe Strutz passed away on April 9, 2004, in Sacramento CA. He started his Service in Portland, OR and moved to Sacramento, CA, in 1955. He retired in 1979 after a long career with the Service. A Memorial Service was held April 16, 2004, at 11:00 AM at St Paul's Lutheran Church, 2958 59th Street in Sacramento, CA 95817. Cards and other memorials may be sent to the above address.

Thanks to Felix Smith

Joseph R. Blum of Davis, CA, died suddenly on April 7, 2004, in Sacramento. He was 64. Born Jan. 16, 1940, in Billings, MT., he had a lifelong career working toward conservation of fish, wildlife and the environment. It was important to him that these resources be managed so his children, grandchildren and future generations could enjoy them, his family said. There was a memorial on Friday, April 16 at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in Washington where his ashes were scattered. During his FWS career as the Area Manager in Olympia, WA, he was instrumental in establishing the Nisqually NWR and developed an unrelenting fondness for this area. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Friends of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, 100 Round Farm Road, Olympia, WA 98516.

Pegg Todd passed away April 19 after a 6-year battle with colon cancer. She worked for Darrell Mahlik, Chief, Contracting and General Services of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Region 6, Denver, CO from the 1970's until January 8, 1984, when she transferred to the Navy Public Works Center in San Diego, CA. She retired to Jacksonville, FL, after 31 years of Government service.

Peggy Oates Watkins passed away on May 2 at a hospice in Washington, D.C. Peggy worked for the Service in its Central office. She is survived by her husband Sylvester and her sisters Sarah Crews and Mary Whitehead.

Thanks to Joe Piehuta for the information

On Monday, May 10, Retired Agent **Lou Miller** passed away. He was living in Tallahassee, FL, when he died. However, Lou spent much of his career in Atlanta where he was extremely versed in photography and served the Service for many years.

Thanks to Jerry Smith

Newsletter edited by Jerry C. Grover, Portland, Oregon

The Following People Registered for all or Part of the Reunion Weekend Actives.

Ailes, Irvin M. & Marilyn
Anastasi, Peter & Betty
Andrews, Ralph
Banks, Roger & Gail
Benfield, Dan & Connie Dodd
Baker, Susan
Benson, Harold
Beaver, Elinor & Bill
Ciaffone, Bernice
Coon, Richard & Nancy
Cornelius, Stan & Bonnie
Cunningham, Earl & Anne
Dane, Charlie (day only) & ?
DeBates, Larry
Duncan, Thomas & Peg
Earnest, Russell
Faulkner, Clarence (Ki) - local
Fair, Edwin & Edna
Fortenbery, Don & Luann
Foster, John & Sue
French, Jerry* & Pat
Gessner, Mary
Gillett, Jim & Shirl
Graves, Blayne & Bobbie
Green, John
Greenwalt, Lynn & Judy
Griner, Carol & Dallas
Gladdys, Paul & Carol
Grover, Jerry * & Judy
Hasty, Charles and Betty
Hankla, Donald & Millie
Hemphill, Jack & Norma
Hester, Eugene and Catherine
Holland, Denny * & Kathy
Hughlett, Charles (w/ daughter Laurel Cottrill & Edmond)
Key, Jack
Kinser, Glen - local
Kulp, Charles & Gail
LaRochelle, Larry & Merry
Losey, Elizabeth
Loth, Ed & Nancy
Maloy, Charles & Pat
McAndrews, Tom & Joan
McDaniel, Travis & Joyce
McDonough, Barbara
Miller, Robert & Irma
Moffett, Conley & Frances
Montgomery, Alex & Pal
Morgan, Phillip & Karen
Norton, Dorothe
Neal, Clara
Ogden, Wendall - local
Olsen, Annie Laurie
Olson, Norman
Owens, Larry
Parker, Warren
Parry, Stephen

Peffer, Onnolee
Perkuchin, Don & Carol
Pulliam, Judy* & Jim
Quinter, Jo *
Ramsour, John
Robinson, David & Jan
Shaw, Jim & Rose
Rodgers, Chuck &
Siegfried, Rollin & Karen
Smart, Glen & Pat
Smith, Thomas & Helen
Stevens, Bob
Stine, Pete & Marlene
Thomas, Larry & Becky
Taylor, Tom
Tisdale, Jim & Jacque
Town, Ralph & Helen
Wahlin, Ron & Amy
Walker, Leonard & Ruth
Wallenstrom, Rolf & Ginnie
Westberg, Jacki
Wilcox, Warren & Jane
Wilson, Robert & Sue
Yovino, Joe

Others – Active Employees and Guests

Blankenship, John*
Boggs, James F.
Brimm, Steve *
Chase, Steve* & Karen
Corace, Gregory
Corbett, Debbie *
Davis, Eric
Fearnow, Ed
Hall, Dale * & Sarah
Harold, Jeanne *
Hartwig, Bill
Hogan, Matt
Hollingsworth, Karen
Jones, Marshall
Kaufman, Nancy
Kurth, Jim
Lemon, Rick*
Madison, Mark *
Moriarty, Marvin
Palmasano, Bill
Parker, Mamie
Piehuta, Joe * & Marca
Riley, Clint
Ritter, Barb & Jerry
Sauer, John
Schafner, Jonathan *
Schmidt, Paul
Smith, Randi*
Stockie, James
Williams, Steve

* Heritage Committee